DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Doddington Village Hall on Monday 12 October 2026

Present: Cllr Steve Coates (Chairman), Cllr Colin Jones (Vice Chairman), Cllr Kevin Attwood, Cllr Kirsty Clark, Cllr Graham Cuthbert, Cllr Kevin Fraser and Cllr Linda Lumsden:
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Cllr Coates welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. APOLOGIES
All members were present.
Apologies had been received County Councillor Rich Lehmann (unwell); apologies noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None were declared

3. TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION
None

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2026
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
Cllr Coates duly signed the minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING
Old Lenham Road Sweep – Cllr Coates reported that as a result of multiple complaints, Swale Borough Council will sweep the road on 7 December. Further information regarding the proposed extent of the cleaning has been requested.
Cllr Jones informed Members it had earlier been suggested the road would be closed and encroaching vegetation and other detritus dug out; it has been nearly a year since the Parish Council had requested a road sweep.

Play Area - a decision on our grant application is expected next month

Village Hall Grant
Cllr Coates reported that as a result of the Council informing the Village Hall that Ward Councillor Thompson had grant funding available, the Village Hall has been awarded a grant of £350.

6. POLICE REPORT
PC Gary Morris was unable to attend but sent a written report.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
No members of the public were present.

8. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Coates reported that faults raised at the last meeting had been reported and works are being programmed.
Cllr Jones reported that Kent Highways had still not reinstated the agreed six-monthly inspection of the drains in the Old Lenham Road. The matter has been escalated to Director level and is now a formal complaint. A response is promised by 20 October.
Cllr Fraser reported that the gully pots in The Street have been cleaned, but not those at the junction with Ringlestone Road.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

i. Proposed Highsted Park
Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent
Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham
Cllr Coates informed Members that the decision is expected next month.

ii. Ref: 26/503103/FULL
Address: Bistock, Old Thatch Doddington Lane Doddington Kent ME9 0AX
Proposal: Erection of a summer house (retrospective).
Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

iii. Any other planning matter received by 12 October 2026
Ref: 26/503198/FULL Hill Cottage Dully Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BY
Proposal: Erection of part single storey, part two storey side and rear extensions.
Only comment to date is DWN History Group would like to visit the site when foundations are dug to record any evidence for the Roman road foundations.
Awaiting decision

Ref: 26/503322/FULL Woodstock The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BH
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension.
Councillors considered the proposal and had no comment to make save that neighbours' comments be taken into account.
Awaiting decision

Ref: 26/501794/FULL The Oast Driving Range Church Road Tonge ME9 9AR
Proposal: Refurbishment of existing golf course through engineering works to raise the level of the ground and relay and shape the new golf course and create drainage, new greens and tees for a 6 hole golf course including ecological enhancements.
Awaiting decision

10. FINANCE

i. Councillors Expenses
There were none.

ii. Clerk salary
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay the Clerk £565.97 in respect of salary and expenses (cheque no 1462).
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay HMRC £68.60 in respect of PAYE & NI (cheque no 1463).

iii. Invoices for Payment
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mrs L Law £78.00 in respect of plants for village flower beds (cheque no 1464).
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Four Jays Ltd £261.60, re-issue of cheque 1459 (cheque no 1465)

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Detling Parish Council £17.50- share of Clerks Conference (cheque no 1466).
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £40.00 donation for poppy wreath (cheque no 1467).
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Kent County Playing Fields Association £20.00 subscription (cheque no 1468).

The Clerk raised that her membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks had been transferred to the new clerk at Newington Parish Council at their request. Although Newington Parish Council had paid the fee, all her Parish Councils had contributed a share of this so only one fifth of the membership fee should have been transferred.
Councillors agreed that this should be investigated further and a refund sought.

11. SPEED WATCH
Cllr Fraser reported that the Speed Watch sessions continue with encouraging results.

12. PLAYING FIELD
i. Cllr Fraser's monthly report
Cllr Fraser reported that the Playing Field was neat and tidy; minor tree works continue.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 16.09.26- KALC bulletin
2. 17.09.26- NALC: CEO bulletin
3. 22.09.26- Kent Highways: South East Water - Emergency Road Closure - Down Court Road, Doddington - 22nd September 2026
4. 24.09.26- KALC Training bulletin
5. 24.09.26- NALC: CEO bulletin
6. 28.09.26- Swale Borough Council: Policy Round-up
7. 29.09.26- Helen Whately MP: invitation to a Parish Council meeting on 23 October at Lenham
8. 01.10.26- Kent Highways: South East Water - Emergency Road Closure - Doddington Lane, Doddington - 1 October 2026
9. 01.10.26- Swale Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter
10. 01.10.26- NALC: CEO bulletin
11. 05.10.26- Swale Borough Council: Policy Round-up
12. 06.10.26- KALC Newsletter
13. 07.10.26- Openreach - Temporary Road Closure - Faversham Road, Newnham – 23 November 2026
14. 07.10.26- Swale Borough Council: Changes to Planning Decision-Making Arrangements: National Scheme of Delegation

Cllr Coates reported that KCCllr Lehmann had contacted him regarding an email from SBCllr Thompson following a complaint about the verge by The Gables. KCCllr Lehman will report it to Kent Highways.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Cllr Cuthbert informed Members that he is unable to attend the screening of the National Emergency Briefing Film at Doddington Village Hall as it is oversubscribed.

Cllr Cuthbert reported that the Village Hall Committee is considering installing batteries and broadband as they think the hall will be a place for people to go in the event of an emergency; they have decided to buy a hub with a sim card to trial. There is concern that in the event of a power cut, after one and a half hours the mast signal goes off, the EE signal goes immediately. If there is a power cut, someone may have to drive out of the village to call the emergency services.

DRAFT

Date of next Meeting:- Monday 9 November 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman Date: 9 November 2026

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